

## Sunday Night Message

March 18, 2018

Joshua 18 – 19 – *Land Distribution for Remaining Tribes*

Series – *Joshua*

Text – Joshua 18 - 19

### Review

In chapter 14, we saw the general division of the Land of Israel, noting the two and one half tribes located on the eastern side of the Jordan River, and then the nine tribes plus two half tribes located on the western side of the river, with the half tribe of Manasseh receiving portions of land on both sides. Also, the Levites were dispersed throughout the Land on both sides in 48 cities, but receiving no specific land inheritance. (See Map)

In chapter 15, we saw the land distribution of the tribe of Judah. (See Map) Judah was the largest of all of the tribes according to the census taken in Numbers 26. The numbers given there are for the men, twenty years of age and older who could go to war.

*"These are the families of Judah according to those that were numbered of them, threescore and sixteen thousand and five hundred."* (Numbers 26:22)

In chapters 16 and 17, we saw the land distribution for Manasseh and Ephraim, the two half-tribes within the Tribe of Joseph.

### Introduction

In Chapters 18 – 19 Joshua will distribute the land for the rest of the tribes of Israel.

#### I The Process for Distribution (18:1 – 10)

You will notice the mention of Shiloh. The Tabernacle would be located in Shiloh. The camp of Israel will move from Gilgal to here.

Notice that Joshua called the Israelite's slack. He wanted them to get moving in settling the rest of the land. The word, "slack" here is the same word translated "idle" and "slothful" in other parts of the Old Testament. God's people are not supposed to be idle. We are supposed to be busy for the Lord.

*"He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster."* (Proverbs 18:9)

*"Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest. How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man."* (Proverbs 6:6-11)

*"For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags." (Proverbs 23:21)*

*"For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat." (2 Thessalonians 3:10)*

- 1 Find out what God wants you to do.
- 2 Set goals for what God wants you to do.
- 3 Schedule your time accordingly.
- 4 Work hard to achieve the goal.
- 5 Solve the problems that are hindering you from reaching those goals.
- 6 Evaluate your progress.
- 7 Make the necessary adjustments.
- 8 Rejoice in success.

The Israelites were to send out three men from each tribe who were to survey the land, and divide into seven parts. Joshua would then use a "lot" system to decide which tribe was to get which piece of land. The casting of lots was used to determine God's will:

*"The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof is of the LORD." (Proverbs 16:33)*

## **II The Provision for the Levites (18:7)**

The Levites were not to inherit any land as the other tribes did. They were to receive cities to live in, but the distribution of land was for the other eleven tribes. The Levites inheritance was the Lord. See Deuteronomy 35:1 – 9 for the cities that were to be given to the Levites.

The priest were not to possess anything themselves. All of their possessions belonged to the Lord. They were to be provided for by the offerings of the people.

See Deuteronomy 18:1 – 8 for the priests provision.

See Nehemiah 13:10 – 13 – The Levites were forced to neglect the House of God and work in the fields because the people were not bringing in the tithes as they should.

The Catholic Church follows the Old Testament priesthood pattern, providing housing and all of the needs for the priests and nuns.

However, the New Testament pattern is not specified. There is no commandment for New Testament churches to specifically provide housing, though some churches have done so. Basically, the New Testament teaches that ministers are to be provided for as best as the churches are able to:

See 1 Corinthians 9:1 – 18 for teaching from the New Testament on taking care of ministers.

*"Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward."* (1 Timothy 5:17-18)

The pastor's attitude ought to be that if God called him to a church, he should serve faithfully regardless of any compensation because God will take care of him.

*"The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away."* (1 Peter 5:1-4)

### **III The Product of Land Distribution for the Remaining Tribes (18:11 – 19:48)**

**A Benjamin (18:11 – 28)**

**B Simeon (19:1 – 9)**

**C Zebulun (19:10 – 16)**

**D Issachar (19:17 – 23)**

**E Asher (19:24 – 31)**

**F Naphtali (19:32 – 39)**

**G Dan (19:40 – 48)**

### **IV A Present for Joshua (19:49 – 51)**

Caleb was one of the first to receive his portion of land; Joshua will be the last. Remember, they were the only two adults from the wilderness wanderings permitted to enter into the Promised Land.

Israel gave Joshua his choice of the land for his own city. According to McGee, this place in the land of Ephraim was a barren place, and was not appropriate for a man that had given the Lord his whole life; but, Joshua didn't need a great piece of land; he had a great Lord. Joshua would be buried here. (Joshua 24:30)

**TRIBAL DISTRIBUTION OF PALESTINE**

- City
- ▲ Mountain
- ▨ Territory shared by the tribes of Judah and Simeon

0 15 30 Miles  
0 15 30 Kilometers

MEDITERRANEAN SEA



**THE TRIBAL ALLOTMENTS OF ISRAEL**

JOSH 13:8-19:49

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- ▲ Mountain peak

